

We Claim:

1. A coupler for coupling a first data processing apparatus connected to a network, to at least one second data processing apparatus also connected to the network and having a further coupler, the second data processing apparatus not being identified in the network, the coupler comprising:

coupling means, the first data processing apparatus associated with a first network node, the second data processing apparatus associated with a second network node within the network, said coupling means, in conjunction with the second data processing apparatus of the second network node, providing functions for increasing availability.

2. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability are provided automatically.

3. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein said coupling means being set up such that the functions for increasing availability can be administered from another network node.

4. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means in the first data processing apparatus carry out memory replication from the first data processing apparatus to the second data processing apparatus.

5. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability carry out a parallel calculation in the first data processing apparatus and in the at least one second data processing apparatus.

6. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability initiate translation of physical addresses of the at least one second data processing apparatus, the physical addresses being predefinable or automatically determinable, into logical addresses, with a translation being carried out by the first data processing apparatus.

7. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability route event and alarm messages through the same channels, with the event and alarm messages being centrally accessible, so that suitable countermeasures including termination of a service, may be initiated automatically or manually.

8. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means in the first data processing apparatus provide timer objects of the at least one second data processing apparatus in redundant form.

9. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means in the first data processing apparatus has means for monitoring the addressability of the at least one second data processing apparatus.

10. The coupler according to claim 9, wherein said coupling means has further means for terminating the functions for increasing availability by coupling to the at least one second data processing apparatus which can no longer be addressed.

11. The coupler according to claim 1, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means in the first data processing apparatus automatically install an administration program unit from the first data processing apparatus to the at least one second data processing apparatus.

12. A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a communication interface for connecting the data processing apparatus associated with a first network node to a network;
and

coupling means for providing functions for increasing availability in conjunction with at least one further data processing apparatus associated with a second network node, the further data processing apparatus being connected to the network, having further coupling means, and is not identified.

13. A data processing system, comprising:

a first data processing apparatus connected to a network and associated with a first network node;

at least one second data processing apparatus also connected to the network and not being identified in the network, said second data processing apparatus associated with a second network node; and

a plurality of coupling means, one of said coupling means connected to each of said first data processing apparatus and said second data processing apparatus for coupling said first and second data processing apparatus to each other, said coupling means, in conjunction with said second data processing apparatus of the second network node, providing functions for increasing availability.

14. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability are provided automatically.

15. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein said coupling means being set up such that the functions for increasing availability can be administered from another network node.

16. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means of said first data processing apparatus carries out memory replication from said first data processing apparatus to said second data processing apparatus.

17. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability carry out a parallel calculation in said first data processing apparatus and in said at least one second data processing apparatus.

18. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability initiate translation of physical addresses of said at least one second data processing apparatus, the physical addresses being predefinable or automatically determinable, into logical

addresses, with a translation being carried out by said first data processing apparatus.

19. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability route event and alarm messages through the same channels, with the event and alarm messages being centrally accessible, so that suitable countermeasures including termination of a service, may be initiated automatically or manually.

20. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means in said first data processing apparatus provide timer objects of said at least one second data processing apparatus in redundant form.

21. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means in said first data processing apparatus has means for monitoring the addressability of said at least one second data processing apparatus.

22. The data processing system according to claim 21, wherein said coupling means has further means for terminating the functions for increasing availability by coupling to said at

least one second data processing apparatus which can no longer be addressed.

23. The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the functions for increasing availability of said coupling means of said first data processing apparatus automatically installs an administration program unit from said first data processing apparatus to said at least one second data processing apparatus.